

URBAN INSTITUTE Update

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A weekly notice of events, selected new publications and commentaries, and timely data at a glance from the Urban Institute.

In this issue:

- Outcome Management Series
- Housing America's Low-Income Families
- Proposed Charity Legislation
- Earned Income Tax Credit

OUTCOME MANAGEMENT SERIES

Like the heads of for-profit enterprises, nonprofit executives and managers need to know whether they are providing satisfactory results. Outcome management (also known as managing for results) enables organizations to define and use specific indicators to continually measure how well services and programs are doing. With this information, managers can improve service delivery, resource allocation, and budget development.

In the six guidebooks that make up the [Outcome Management for Nonprofit Organizations](#) series, experts explain how to establish an outcome measurement process, develop and analyze indicators, track and survey clients, and use the information to make better decisions.

HOUSING AMERICA'S LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

Urban Institute research on the design, implementation, and impact of federal housing policy illuminates discussions about how best to serve low-income families and the communities in which they live. Find out more about the work of the housing policy research team in this [new web feature](#).

COMMENTARY ON PROPOSED CHARITY LEGISLATION

"This isn't the first time in recent memory that attention has been paid to the charitable sector. Partly due to proposals put forward by President George W. Bush and then-presidential candidate Al Gore, both houses of Congress as early as 2001 began to consider fashioning bills to expand incentives for giving. Unlike the proposals now being considered, which generally restrict actions and at times take things away from charities, the former effort focused on increasing their resources. That bill has languished; each year, Congress has decided it had higher priorities for the types of tax cuts it wanted."

From "[Real Charitable Choice](#)," by C. Eugene Steuerle, in *Tax Notes*.

DATA AT A GLANCE: EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

Low-income families--those most likely to qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)--are more likely to seek assistance filing their tax returns than higher-income families: 69 percent of families at or below the poverty level vs. 56 percent of families earning twice the poverty level. Most former welfare recipients know about the EITC (92 percent) and the percentage is almost as high for former food stamp recipients (85 percent).

From "[Tax Preparation for Low-Income Households, Knowledge of the EITC](#)," by Elaine Maag, in *Tax Notes*.